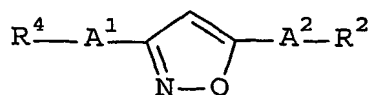


C L A I M S

1. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (III):

5



(III)

wherein R^2 is lower alkoxy or higher alkoxy,

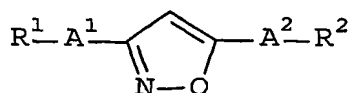
R^4 is carboxy

A^1 is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group, and

A^2 is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group,

which comprises:

15 hydrolyzing a compound of the general formula (II):

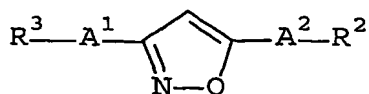


(II)

wherein R^2 , A^1 and A^2 are each as defined above, and

R^1 is protected carboxy,

20 with aqueous potassium hydroxide to give a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^2 , A^1 and A^2 are each as defined above, and

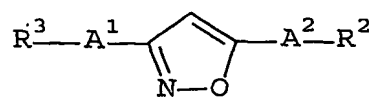
R^3 is a potassium salt of carboxy,
and reacting this compound (I) with hydrochloric acid to
obtain the compound (III).

5 2. A process of claim 1, wherein
 R^2 is lower alkoxy,
 A^1 is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic
 bivalent group, and
 A^2 is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic
10 bivalent group.

 3. A process of claim 2, wherein
 A^1 is an aromatic bivalent group, and
 A^2 is an aromatic bivalent group.

15 4. A process of claim 3, wherein
 A^1 is phenylene, and
 A^2 is phenylene.

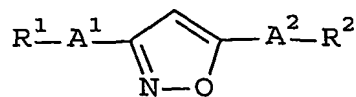
20 5. A process for preparing a compound of the formula
 (I):



(I)

wherein R^2 is lower alkoxy or higher alkoxy,
 R^3 is a potassium salt of carboxy,
25 A^1 is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent
 group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group, and
 A^2 is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent
 group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group,

30 which comprises:
 hydrolyzing a compound of the general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R², A¹ and A² are each as defined above, and

R¹ is protected carboxy,

5 with aqueous potassium hydroxide to give the compound (I).

6. A process of claim 5, wherein

R² is lower alkoxy,

A¹ is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic
10 bivalent group, and

A² is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic
bivalent group.

7. A process of claim 6, wherein

15 A¹ is an aromatic bivalent group, and

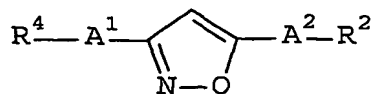
A² is an aromatic bivalent group.

8. A process of claim 7, wherein

A¹ is phenylene, and

20 A² is phenylene.

9. A process for preparing a compound of the formula
(III):



(III)

25

wherein R² is lower alkoxy or higher alkoxy,

R⁴ is carboxy

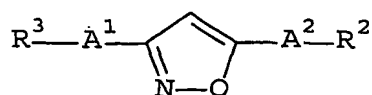
A¹ is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group, and

A² is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group,

5

which comprises:

reacting a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

- 10 wherein R², A¹ and A² are each as defined above, and
R³ is a potassium salt of carboxy,
with hydrochloric acid to obtain the compound (III).

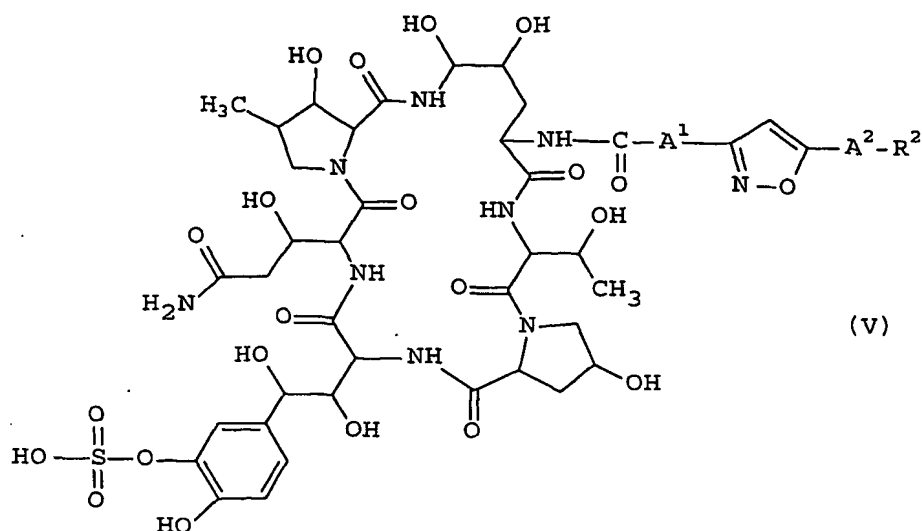
10. A process of claim 9, wherein
15 R² is lower alkoxy,
A¹ is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic bivalent group, and
A² is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic bivalent group.

20

11. A process of claim 10, wherein
A¹ is an aromatic bivalent group, and
A² is an aromatic bivalent group.

- 25 12. A process of claim 11, wherein
A¹ is phenylene, and
A² is phenylene.

13. A process for preparing a compound of the formula
30 (V):



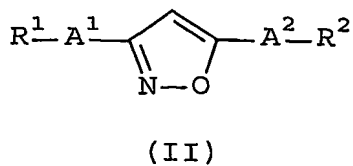
wherein R^2 is lower alkoxy or higher alkoxy,

A^1 is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group, and

A^2 is an aromatic bivalent group, heterocyclic bivalent group or cyclo(lower)alkane bivalent group, or salt thereof,

which comprises:

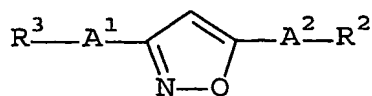
hydrolyzing a compound of the general formula (II):



wherein R^2 , A^1 and A^2 are each as defined above, and

R^1 is protected carboxy,

with aqueous potassium hydroxide to give a compound of the general formula (I):

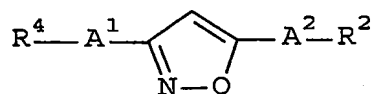


(I)

wherein R^2 , A^1 and A^2 are each as defined above, and

R^3 is a potassium salt of carboxy,

5 and reacting this compound (I) with hydrochloric acid to give the compound of the general formula (III):

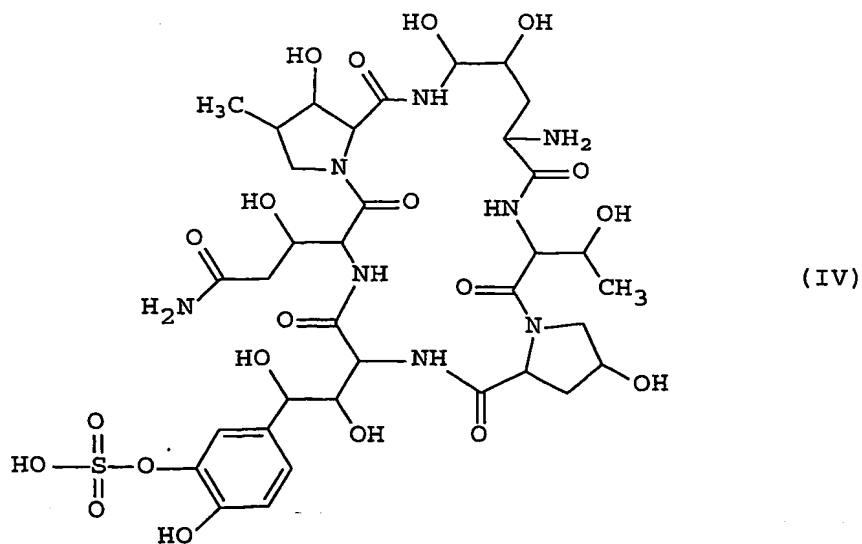


(III)

wherein R^2 , A^1 and A^2 are each as defined above, and

10 R^4 is carboxy, and if necessary, converting the compound (III) into its reactive derivative at the carboxy group or a salt thereof in a conventional manner, and reacting the compound (III) or its reactive derivative at the carboxy group or a salt thereof with the compound of the

15 formula (IV):



(IV)

or its reactive derivative at the amino group or a salt thereof to obtain the compound (V) or a salt thereof.

- 5 14. A process of claim 13, wherein
 R² is lower alkoxy,
 A¹ is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic
 bivalent group, and
 A² is an aromatic bivalent group or heterocyclic
10 bivalent group.
15. A process of claim 14, wherein
 A¹ is an aromatic bivalent group, and
 A² is an aromatic bivalent group.
- 15 16. A process of claim 15, wherein
 A¹ is phenylene, and
 A² is phenylene.
- 20 17. 4-[5-(4-Pentyloxyphenyl)isoxazol-3-yl]benzoic acid
 prepared by the process of claim 1 and substantially not
 including 5-(4-pentyloxyphenyl)-3-[4-[5-(4-
 pentyloxyphenyl)isoxazol-3-yl]phenyl]isoxazole.